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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Public Health Inspector

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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*Medical Officer of Health*

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Public Health Inspector* ... .. F. BROOK, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Clerk* ... .. Mrs. J. CROMPTON

# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

*To the Chairman and Members of the Kearsley Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit the Annual Report on the health of the District, together with the Public Health Inspector's Report for the year 1956.

For several years the district has been free from any serious epidemic disease other than the occasional seasonal rise of the child disease of measles and whooping cough.

It is believed that with the rise in the immunisation figures against whooping cough, this disease will become as rare as diphtheria.

There has been no case of diphtheria in the district for ten years. Perhaps in fifteen years time we may be able to look back with similar satisfaction on the incidence figures for whooping cough.

Measles, a virus disease in which immunity is rarely acquired without an actual attack of the disease, will continue at intervals of three or four years to reach epidemic figures. However, the measles of to-day is no longer the menace it was some thirty years ago.

Slum clearance was continued during the year. Progress in slum clearance, however ambitious a local authority may be, depends largely on the rate at which new houses, at an economical rent to the wage earner, can be erected.

The end of the year saw the completed installation of the grit extractors in the Power Station in the district. This has improved considerably the grit deposit.

The next project in health improvement of the community is the reduction of air pollution, and to this end the Clean Air Bill which was passed by Parliament during the year will enable some measures to be taken to purify the air during 1957.

Much has been written and said about lung cancer and smoking. There is little doubt that cigarette smoking predisposes to a cancer of the lung more so than pipe smoking. But it is the excessive cigarette smoker and inhaler who runs the greatest risk.



The figures for cancer of the lung or pleura for the last five years are given here, together with the figures for bronchitis :—

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Cancer of the Lung Or Pleura	2	4	3	7	3
Bronchitis	8	12	16	17	12

Bronchitis is a disease that flourishes best in hard and wet winters. Maybe cleaner air would reduce all chest infections.

For the help and encouragement of the members of the council and the co-operation of the staff of the health and other departments, I am again indebted.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

AREA—1,720 statute acres (approx.).

POPULATION—Estimated June, 1956—10,440.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Births :					TOTAL	Males	Females
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	163	81	82
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	6	2	4
Still Births :							
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	5	1	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	NIL	—	—

		Kearsley	England & Wales	
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	16.2	15.7	
Still Births per 1,000 total births	...	29.0	23.0	
		TOTAL	Males	Females
Deaths	... ..	114	66	48
		Kearsley	England & Wales	
Death Rate per 1,000 population				
	(adjusted)	12.8	11.7	
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth			NIL	
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:				
		TOTAL	Males	Females
Legitimate	... ..	5	3	2
Illegitimate	... ..	NIL	—	—
		Kearsley	England & Wales	
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000				
	live births	30.0	23.8	
			TOTAL	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... ..		11	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	... ..		NIL	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..		NIL	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	... ..		NIL	

#### CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1956

Tuberculosis, Respiratory	... ..	1
Cancer	... ..	11
Heart Diseases	... ..	38
Other Circulatory Diseases	... ..	3
Bronchitis	... ..	12
Other diseases of respiratory system	... ..	1
Influenza	... ..	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	... ..	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	... ..	2
Congenital Malformations	... ..	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system	... ..	14
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	... ..	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	.....	2
All other accidents	... ..	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	... ..	14
	TOTAL	114



## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following is a list of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1956 :—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>No.</i>
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	47
Dysentery ... ..	34
Erysipelas ... ..	1
Measles ... ..	6
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	7
Food Poisoning ... ..	20

Cases removed to Hospital from the district :—

Whooping Cough ... ..	1
Poliomyelitis (Suspected) ... ..	1

Tuberculosis—Cases notified :—

Respiratory ... ..	1
Non-Respiratory ... ..	1

The treatment of all cases of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

### FOOD POISONING.

During the year there were 20 cases of Food Poisoning reported.

### ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

One case was notified during the year, but neither clinically nor bacteriologically was this case confirmed.

### SCARLET FEVER.

One case of Scarlet Fever was reported during the year, and this was nursed at home.

### DIPHTHERIA.

For the tenth year in succession there were no cases of Diphtheria.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The bacteriological examination of sputum is undertaken by the Lancashire Tuberculosis Committee.

The bacteriological examination of milk samples and water samples and of pathological specimens is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary.

WATER SUPPLY.

The greater part of the water supply to the Urban area is from the Bolton Corporation. This is a direct and constant supply and is sufficient in quantity and quality.

The Irwell Valley Water Board supplies the area of Prestolee and Ringley with a direct and constant supply and this is sufficient in quantity and quality.

There are four houses, with a population of 12, in the outlying district known as Giant's Seat, dependent on well water, which is not a connected supply.

The following is a summary of the results of bacteriological examinations, chemical analyses, etc., supplied by Bolton Corporation Water Works Department and Irwell Valley Water Board :—

	Bolton Corporation	Irwell Valley Water Board
No. of bacteriological examinations of raw water ... ..	150	48
Results ... ..	Satisfactory with treatment	Unsatisfactory without treatment
No. of chemical analyses ... ..	12	11
Results ... ..	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
<i>Water going into supply where treatment is installed:—</i>		
No. of bacteriological examinations ...	153	144
Results ... ..	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
No. of chemical analyses ... ..	12	33
Results ... ..	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Action taken in respect of any form of contamination ... ..	Action not necessary	All water chlorinated
Liability to plumbo-solvent action ... ..	From tests made weekly the water was shown to have no plumbo-solvent action.	Yes
Analyses for plumbo-solvent action ...	—	144
Results ... ..	—	Mainly satisfactory. Precautions— Water Lime-treated

## HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(1)	By the local authority	... ..	30 Houses 8 Bungalows 20 Cottage Flats
(2)	By other local authorities	... ..	—
(3)	By other bodies or persons	... ..	20 Houses

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... ..	82
	(b)	No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	... ..	150
(2)		Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :—		
	(a)	No. found during the year	... ..	34
	(b)	No. (or estimated no.) at end of year	... ..	130
(3)		No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	... ..	48

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) :—

(1)	No. of dwelling-houses demolished during year :—		
	(a)	Unfit houses	... .. 18
	(b)	Other Houses	... .. —
(2)	No. of persons displaced	... ..	27

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas : —

		Number of	
		Houses	Persons Displaced
(1)	Houses demolished or closed during year:		
(a)	Housing Act, 1936—		
(i)	Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11) ... ..	1	—
(ii)	Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force ...	4	15
(iii)	Parts of building closed (Section 12) ... ..	—	—
(b)	Housing Act, 1949—		
(i)	Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2) ... ..	—	—
(c)	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953—		
(i)	Closed as a result of Closing orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2) ... ..	—	—
			No. of houses.
(2)	Repairs during the year : —		
(a)	Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts ... ..		37
(b)	Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied—		
(i)	By owners ... ..		—
(ii)	By local authority in default of owners ...		—
(c)	Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16). Houses made Fit—		
(i)	By owners ... ..		—
(ii)	By local authority in default of owners ...		—
(d)	Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954 : Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) ... ..		—



4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) :—

(1)	No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2)	No. of separate dwellings contained in (1) above							—
(3)	No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	...	...	...	...			—

Schemes of  
Private Bodies  
or Individuals

Schemes  
of Local  
Authority

5. Housing Acts, 1949—Improvement grants, etc :—  
Action during the year :

(a)	Submitted by private individuals to local authority	...	...	...	...	...	16	—
(b)	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	...	...	...	...	...	16	—
(c)	Submitted by local authority to Ministry	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
(d)	Work completed	...	...	...	...		16	—
(e)	Any other action taken under the Act	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

6. Housing Conditions :—

Approximately 38 per cent of the houses in Kearsley may be classed as old, 19 per cent as medium and 43 per cent. as modern.

There are approximately 50 families in lodgings who still require housing.

Particulars of any housing scheme—

(i) In hand at end of year :—

Erection of 4 one-bedroomed Cottage Flats.  
Erection of 64 two-bedroomed houses.

(ii) Contemplated :—

Erection of 34 two-bedroomed houses.  
Erection of 10 three-bedroomed houses.



# Report of the Public Health Inspector

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## NOTICES

Thirty-three preliminary notices were served during the year.

## HOUSE REFUSE SCAVENGING

Statement showing the number of receptacles emptied during the year :—

Privy middens	...	...	...	...	4
Dry ashpits	...	...	...	...	3
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	186,723
Pails	...	...	...	...	137
Total loads removed	...	...	...	...	2,826

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Singing Clough Tip. This method continues to be most satisfactory.

During the year Salford Corporation have completed controlled tipping at South Avenue. This land will shortly be developed to form a recreation ground.

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The sanitary accommodation of the district at the end of the year was as follows :—

Fresh water closets	...	...	...	...	3,746
Waste water closets	...	...	...	...	55
Dry ashpits	...	...	...	...	1
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	3,781
Pails	...	...	...	...	5
Privy middens	...	...	...	...	1
Privy closets	...	...	...	...	1

## SALVAGE

The collection and sale of salvage continues to be successful. During the year under review the combined weight of salvage collected was 223 tons 12 cwts. 3 qrs., made up as follows :—

			T.	C.	Q.
Waste Paper	...	...	146	14	3
Kitchen Waste	...	...	52	19	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	23	18	2

The total value was £1,477.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Drainage is partly on the combined and partly on the separate system. The following summary shows how the sewage is dealt with :—

Sewage Works.	Method of Treatment.
Clammerclough ... ..	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Main Outfall, Kearsley Green ...	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Ringley ... ..	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Prestolee ... ..	Detritus tanks, aeration tanks, humus tanks and storm tanks.

At Horridge Brook and Unity Brook the sewage is lifted by automatic ejectors into sewers connected with the Main Outfall Works.

A new Board has been formed, known as the Bolton and District Joint Sewerage Board. Work has commenced on the construction of a new Trunk Sewer.

## DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS

The dairies, cowsheds and milkshops have been inspected on 23 occasions, and their conditions were satisfactory.

During the year twenty-one samples of milk were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary, for tubercle bacilli examination. The results of the examinations showed that twenty of the samples were negative and one positive.

## ICE CREAM

One shop was registered for the sale of ice cream.

Sixteen samples of ice-cream were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary, for bacteriological examination, and all the results were satisfactory.

## ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The County Council is the authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

A total of fifty-six samples was obtained during the year, thirty-six being of milk and the twenty others comprising :—

- 2 Demerara sugar
- 1 Icing sugar
- 1 Flour Confectionery
- 1 Bacon
- 1 Fruited malt loaf
- 1 Sweets
- 1 Parrishes Food
- 2 Cream of Tartar
- 4 Barley
- 1 Semolina
- 1 Epsom Salts
- 2 Mincemeat
- 1 Chocolate
- 1 Flour

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine.

## FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES

During the year thirty visits were paid to factories and workplaces, and thirty-three visits to Bakehouses.

The premises were in a satisfactory condition.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

There were three cases of bed bugs found during the year. The Houses were disinfested by Hydrogen Cyanide.

## RODENT CONTROL.

One man is engaged solely on this work.

Two sewer maintenance treatments have been carried out during the year, and both sides of the river bank, and seventy-one premises in the Urban District have been disinfested.

# SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1st January, 1956, to 31st December, 1956.

Visits to Infectious Diseases ... ..	10
Visits to Property Under Notice ... ..	254
Visits to Factories and Workplaces ... ..	30
Visits to Bakehouses ... ..	33
Visits to Shops ... ..	92
Visits to Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	23
Interviews with Owners, Builders, Architects, etc. ... ..	87
Inspections of Drains, etc., and Works in Progress ... ..	103
Housing Inspections ... ..	34
General Visits—no nuisances ..... ..	1,228
	<hr/>
	1,894
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